

# REPORT TO THE NH CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE STATE COURTS

12/18/06

## III. Alternative Dispute Resolution

<u>Recommendation</u>		<u>Schedule</u>						<u>Action by Judicial Branch</u>
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	
1	Review and expand Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs.							The Supreme Court appointed a committee to review ADR programs and make recommendations for creation of an Office of Alternate Dispute Resolution. That project will produce a legislative proposal for the 2007 legislative session.
2	Establish an Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution.	\$137,500	*	*	*	*	*	See Above.
3	Update and improve current superior court volunteer ADR Program; enhance contributions, recruitment and retention of high quality volunteers; consider use of paid mediators.	See # 1 Above						See Above.
4	Expand Rule 170 ADR to all Superior Court sites.	*	*	*	*	*	*	See Above.
5	Family Division should make available to self represented litigants information about court process, availability of ADR, and impact of family conflict on children.	See # 1 Above, Rec. 10, Page 1						The Family Division has reviewed and improved its use of Certified Martial Mediators. The Judicial Branch makes information about the divorce process available to self represented litigants on its website. The Child Impact Program continues to guide parents in conducting themselves in ways that minimize the impact of divorce on children.
6	Reduce adversarial nature of court process in the Family Division.	See # 1 Above						The Family Division has revised and improved its use of marital mediators, by way of reducing the adversarial nature of divorce.
7	Provide case managers to all self-represented litigants.	See Rec. 2, Page 1						We are requesting funds with which to hire three Family Division managers in FY 2008 and one Family Division case manager in FY 2009. In addition, we are requesting funds with which to hire four case managers in the Superior Court and two case managers in the Probate Court in FY 2008.
8	Require timely attendance at child impact seminars.							Adding Case Manager to Family Division would make this possible.
9	Provide additional information about court process through technology.	See Rec. 10, Pg. 1						The Judicial Branch has requested funds with which to hire a part-time web support person in FY 2008. This person will assist in placement of additional information about court process on our website.

\* = No new funds requested.